

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 FEA-01 ACDA-07  
      CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05  
      DODE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 /085 W  
                              075477 /12

P R 210354Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3004  
INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: TECH PARM BG  
SUBJ: BANGLADESH NUCLEAR PROGRAM: PURCHASE OF RESEARCH REACTOR

REF: A. STATE 296392, B. DACCA 6249

1. SUMMARY. WE HAVE TWO VERSIONS OF BDG POSITION ON SUBJECT PURCHASE AND NPT ADHERENCE, BUT ON BALANCE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT NO EARLY FAVORABLE DECISION ON NPT ADHERENCE IS PROBABLE. DR INNAS ALI, BANGLADESH ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, TOLD US INFORMALLY DECEMBER 17 THAT BDG DECIDED DECEMBER 15 TO ADHERE TO NPT AND PROCEED WITH PURCHASE OF NRESEARCH REACTOR FROM GENERAL ATOMIC INC. HE ASKED US TO PROVIDE PROPOSED TEXT OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT. IN MARKED CONTRAST, FOREIGN SECRETARY TOLD AMBASSADOR ON DECEMBER 18 THAT BDG HAD REACHED NO RPT NO SUCH DECISION. FONSEC ASKED WHICH OTHER COUNTRIES TO WHICH US HAD RECENTLY SOLD NUCLEAR MATERIALS WERE OR WERE NOT ASKED TO RATIFY NPT. ACTION REQUESTED: SUPPLY DRAFT TEXT OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT AND INFORMATION AS REQUESTED BY FONSEC. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAD, ON DECEMBER 14, DELIVERED AIDE MEMOIRE (PER TEXT, PARA 2, REFTEL A) TO MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (AMERICAS) MOHSIN AND SENT COPY TO DR ALI. MOHSIN SAID MFA HAD RECEIVED LETTER FROM  
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BANGLADESH EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, TO EFFECT THAT NPT ADHERENCE WAS KEY TO PURCHASE OF REACTOR.

3. CONTRARY TO OUR JUDGMENT REFTEL (B), NDR INNAS ALI, BANGLADESH ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, INFORMED US DECEMBER 17 THAT AT PRESIDENTIAL MEETING DECEMBER 15 WITH COUNCIL OF ADVISORS, BDG REACHED

"CONSENSUS" TO ADEHERE TO NPT AND PROCEED WITH PURCHASE OFN  
GENERAL ATOMIC INC RESEARCH REACTOR. DR ALI SAID THAT FORMAL  
COMMUNICATION WOULD FOLLOW FROM MFA. DR ALI REQUESTED DRAFT OF  
TEXT OF NECESSARY US-BDG BILATERAL SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT, TO  
PERMIT EARLY CONCLUSIONNOF THAT AGREEMENT. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD  
BE CABLING ROBERT CHESWORTH, MARKETING MANAGER, TRIGA REACTOR  
DIVISION, GENERAL ATOMIC INC, TO CONVEY NEWS OF DECISION AND SAY  
BDG PROCEEDING TO MAKE DOWN PAYMENT, WHICH ALTHOUGH DUE BY  
DECEMBER 31, MAY BE QUOTE SLIGHTLY DELAYED END QUOTE.

4. AMBASSADOR RAISED SUBJECT WITH FONSEC AND ADDITIONAL SECRETARY  
MANZOOR AHMED CHOWDHURY DURING DECEMBER 18 CALL. FONSEC SAID THAT  
NO REPEAT NO DECISIONHAD BEEN TAKEN BY BDG TO ADHERE TO NPT AND  
PROCEED WITH PURCHASE OF RESEARCH REACTOR. IN ADDITION TO ARGU-  
MENTSNSUMMARIZED REFTEL B, FONSEC NOTED THAT BDG DID NOT WISH  
GIVE APPEARANCE OF BOWINGNTO "USG PRESSURE." IN THIS CON-  
NECTION, FONSEC EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT US HAD IN PAST AUTHROIZED  
SALE OF RESEARCH REACTORS WITHOUT REQUIRING PURCHASING COUNTRY TO  
ADHERE TO NPT. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED ABOUT EGYPTNTO WHICH HE  
UNDERSTOOD FROM PRESS REPORTS SUCH A SALE WAS CONTEMPLATED. WE  
ARE SENDING COPY OF PRESIDENT FORD'S OCTOBER 28NSTATEMENT ON  
NUCLEAR POLICY TO ADDITIONAL FONSEC CHOWDHURY.

5. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT BANGLADESH DOES NOT WISH TO BE THE FIRST  
GOVERNMENT TO BE REQUIRED TO ADHERE TO NPT IN ORDER PURCHASE US  
RESEARCH REACTOR. PLEASE LET US HAVE RUNDOWN OF RECENT EXPERIENCE  
IN SALES OF US RESEARCH REACTORS. HAS ANY OTHER COUNTRY AGREED  
TO ADHERE TO NPT IN ORDERNBUY US RESEARCH REACTORS?NWHAT IS OUT-  
LOOK FROM HERE ON?

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6. WE SEE NO REASON AT THIS STAGE TO ALTERNNSIGNIFICANTLY OUR  
JUDGMENT IN REFTEL B. CERTAINLY NO FAVORABLE BDG DECISION MAY BE  
EXPECTED BEFORE THEY HAVE CHANCE TO STUDY ANY RESPONSE DEPT MAY  
PROVIDE TO THEIR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON SALES TO OTHER  
COUNTRIES.  
MASTERS

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